

Commons Brexit battle



History made as MPs

vote to trigger Brexit

By Steven Swinford
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

BORIS JOHNSON last night said that "history has been made" after MPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of triggering Brexit negotiations and beginning the process of leaving the EU.

The Foreign Secretary called it a "momentous" night as MPs voted four to one in favour of triggering Article 50.

Kenneth Clarke, a former chancellor, was the only Tory MP to oppose it.

Theresa May, the Prime Minister, will today publish a White Paper formally setting out the Government's plans for Brexit in response to the con-

cerns of pro-European Tory MPs. However, there were further signs of division among the Conservatives, as George Osborne, the former chancellor, accused Mrs May of putting Brexit ahead of the economy and warned he will join the "fight" over Britain's future outside the EU.

Yesterday's vote means the Government's Brexit legislation has cleared its first hurdle and Mrs May is on course to trigger the process by her March deadline. There had been 14 and a half hours of debate and bitter clashes in Parliament over two days as nearly 100 MPs expressed their views about Brexit.

MPs finally voted in favour of the Eu-

ropean Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill by 498 votes to 114, with 47 Labour MPs, 50 SNP MPs and seven Liberal Democrats voting against.

It leaves Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader, facing his third reshuffle in 18 months after 12 serving frontbenchers voted against it. Four members of his front bench team have already quit.

Mr Johnson said: "I've just voted three times in the House of Commons for an absolutely momentous thing – to give our Prime Minister the right to trigger Article 50 and Britain to begin

the path out of the EU. Don't forget we may be leaving the EU treaties but we are not leaving Europe.

"We are going to be making an amazingly positive contribution to our continent as we always have done and always will. But we are now able to forge a new identity with new free trade deals as global Britain."

However, Mr Osborne said that Mrs May has chosen "not to make the economy the priority in this negotiation".

He said that there will be "lively debates" to come on migration, state aid and agricultural policy. "I will be in those fights for years to come," he said. While he had argued "passionately" for

Britain to stay in the European Union, Mr Osborne said, he had "lost the case" and "sacrificed" his position in Government.

Ahead of the debate, Mrs May accused those planning to vote against Article 50 of abusing the trust of the people. During the debate Neil Coyle, a Labour MP who wants Britain to stay in the EU, was censured for calling the Government "b-----".

He also called Mr Corbyn's decision to impose a three-line whip on the vote a "disgrace".

Ed Miliband, the former Labour leader, said he would not oppose Article 50 even though he had not wanted the referendum. "We do not want to

give the sense that people who voted for Brexit because they felt they had been ignored are being ignored once again," he said.

Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat leader, faced jeers of "where were you" from MPs after failing to turn up to the debate on Tuesday.

Alex Salmond, the former SNP leader, said: "The choice the House will get is a bad deal or no deal."

The White Paper – conceded by Mrs May last month – will be based on the 12-point plan contained in her Brexit speech at Lancaster House last month.

Editorial Comment: Page 17

Migrants back in Calais with UK as goal

By Henry Samuel in Paris

HUNDREDS of migrants have returned to Calais in the hope of making it to the UK, three months after the "jungle" was torn down, aid groups have said.

Up to 8,000 migrants from countries including Eritrea, Sudan, Syria and Iraq were dispersed around France when the notorious camp was closed, while a small number of unaccompanied minors were accepted by the UK.

But local aid groups say the migrants,

in particular minors, have been gradually returning. They are calling for an emergency shelter to be set up in the area.

Police are keeping guard outside the former camp to ensure migrants do not try to reclaim it. Instead, the migrants are spreading out around the town, with some sleeping rough or at the train station, it was reported.

The interior and housing ministers this week confirmed that "all installations will be shut in the Calais area to

avoid becoming a focal point" for migrants to return. Florent Guéguen, from the Fnars migrant help group, said: "We weren't asking to rebuild a vast camp, just a minimal humanitarian set-up."

He said that there were "around 500 people in situ and the only public powers who intervene are the police".

Pascal Brice, head of the national Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, said that "Britain continues to fail to assume its responsibilities".



Making a scene

Labour MEP Seb Dance was rebuked in the European Parliament after he offered his own critique of Nigel Farage's speech yesterday, when the former Ukip leader spoke in praise of Donald Trump and the US travel ban.

Fox rubbishes claim of £50bn bill from EU

By Kate McCann

SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIAM FOX has warned it is "absurd" to suggest the UK would be forced to pay a Brexit bill of up to £50 billion by the European Union.

The Trade Secretary rebuffed claims by Sir Ivan Rogers, the UK's former ambassador to Brussels, that EU nations would seek to claw back money after the country leaves the union. Sir Ivan

said that Brexit had exploded a "bomb" under the EU budget and warned that negotiations were likely to descend into "name-calling" and "bit fighting" before an agreement is reached.

However, Mr Fox told a committee of MPs: "I find it bizarre because the UK is using a legal power that we have under the Lisbon Treaty, a provision that was freely entered into by all our European partners."

"Why should they then turn round

to say that we should pay their costs for a process that everybody equally entered into at the time? So it seems to me an absurd argument."

Sir Ivan said European officials believe securing a deal could take up to a decade and would be on a "humongous scale" not experienced since the Second World War. Speaking to MPs on the European scrutiny committee, he said the possibility of a €40-60 billion (£34-51 billion) exit bill was "genuine".

Lift off with our
best ever value
pay as you go
Rocket Packs.

£10

top-up turns into:
1GB data | 500 mins | 5000 texts

£12.50

top-up turns into:
2GB data | 500 mins | 5000 texts

£15

top-up turns into:
3GB data | 1000 mins | 5000 texts

Choose from six different Rocket Packs starting from just £5.

Text 'Rocket' free to 65666 to get your free SIM | Tesco Stores

Rocket Packs: Purchased from available credit; expires after one month; renews automatically each month. Only £10, £15 or £20 Rocket Packs available for initial purchase; all other Rocket Packs available after initial purchase. Included minutes/texts are to calls/texts to 01, 02, 03 and UK mobile numbers only. Requires Tesco Mobile or unlocked 4G enabled phone.

TESCO
mobile
Every little helps

Sketch



By Michael Deacon

Although they know they aren't meant to swear in the Commons, MPs occasionally try to get around the rule. Some attempts, however, are more effective than others.

During the second day of the big Brexit debate, there were two. The first, by Rupa Huq (Lab, Ealing & Acton), was successful, because it left the unspeakable unspeakable.

She was casting doubt on the Prime Minister's strategy for Brexit. "There may be a crack of something at the end of the rainbow," said Ms Huq, "but it may not be gold."

Neil Coyle (Lab, Bermondsey & Old Southwark) was less successful.

He tried to pass off his swearing as a quotation. "John Major referred to this anti-EU colleagues as 'bastards'," said Mr Coyle. "He couldn't have known that his party would become a whole government full of bastards!" Wearily, the Speaker rose, declared his

language "very unseemly", and told Mr Coyle to apologise.

The big-name speaker on day two was George Osborne: the former chancellor who, on the eve of the EU referendum, threatened to produce a so-called "punishment Budget" if the nation voted to leave. The nation was undeterred, perhaps having reasoned that, if it voted to leave, Mr Osborne would be unable to produce such a

"There may be a crack of something at the end of the rainbow – but it may not be gold"

Budget, given that he would be out of a job.

Here, the former chancellor seemed to acknowledge that he'd known this all along. "I made the case [for Remain] with passion," he said.

"I sacrificed my position in government for it." This sounded very noble, although it might be argued that, strictly speaking, Theresa May sacrificed it for him.

His speech glistened with subtle malevolence. The Prime Minister had "chosen not to make the economy the

priority" for Brexit, he said, with a serpentine glint.

"But I respect this decision." Ah, the old insult-dressed-up-as-praise routine. Mr Osborne is highly skilled at it. You can just imagine him at a party. "Darling, that new hairdo takes years off you! No one would ever guess how old you really are."

And I love what you've done with your make-up. You've managed to cover up almost all those wrinkles."

He would vote to trigger Article 50 to avoid "a constitutional crisis", he added graciously, but he was not optimistic about the talks with the EU that would follow. "It's going, I suspect," he said, "to be rather bitter." Perhaps it was just a trick of the light, but he said this with what looked like the faintest flicker of a smile.

At 7pm, it was time to vote. The Commons swarmed. Chloe Smith (Con, Norwich North) brought in her four-month-old baby son. It's unknown which way he voted.

In the end, it was a predictably big win for the Government: 498 to 114. Tory MPs bellowed throatily. After all that legal wrangling, Mrs May at last had the right to trigger Article 50 and get Brexit under way.

Now the fun really begins.

'Cherry picked' EU deal ruled out

BRITAIN has accepted Angela Merkel's claim that it will not be able to "cherry pick" what it wants from the EU during Brexit negotiations, a minister has said.

Mrs Merkel and other EU officials have repeatedly told Britain that it will not be able to pick the parts of the EU it wants, such as the Single Market, without accepting

principles such as free movement of workers.

Lord Price, the trade minister, told *Die Welt*, a German newspaper: "Over the past few weeks, I have met my fellow ministers from several EU countries ... Most of them told me clearly: there is no cherry picking. We understood the message."

"Now the goal is to settle

all these things through a special trade agreement with the remaining EU countries."

"The United Kingdom needs immigration in many areas of its economy. But we want to control them ourselves."

"How exactly this will work must also be dealt with within the framework of future trade agreements."

IndianOil
Marketing Division - Head Office - Mumbai
NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL E-TENDER
NIT No./Name of Work:
GCC/MS-4107-2016-17 (E-Tender Id:
2016_MKTHO_44463_1); Procurement of
237 Tonne of Fuel Oil (FO) for the purpose of
for Locations under all State Offices
Download Period: From 03.02.2017
11:00 Hrs to 20.02.2017 (15:00 Hrs)
Contact Person: Chief Mgr (Contracts)
Tel. No.: +91-22-26441261
Email: jranjan@indianoil.in
Bidders can download the document from
www.indianoil.in/procurement/2016-17
and participation will also be through the same website
only. Corporate members only. If any bid is
published in the above e-tender website only.

6 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • DIRECTING • MEL GIBSON • ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE • ANDREW GARFIELD

5 BAFTA® NOMINATIONS
LEADING ACTOR • ANDREW GARFIELD

3 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS
BEST MOTION PICTURE DRAMA
BEST DIRECTOR • MEL GIBSON

WINNER INCLUDING 2 CRITICS CHOICE AWARDS
BEST ACTION MOVIE • ANDREW GARFIELD

WINNER INCLUDING 9 AACTA AWARDS
BEST LEAD ACTOR • ANDREW GARFIELD

WINNER LONDON CRITICS' CIRCLE FILM AWARDS
BRITISH / IRISH ACTOR • ANDREW GARFIELD

FROM MEL GIBSON. ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR OF BRAVEHEART,
APOCALYPTO AND THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

★★★★★
"A MOVIE YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS"
ROLLING STONE

★★★★★
"FANTASTICALLY MOVING"
THE TELEGRAPH

★★★★★
"IT IS GIBSON'S FINEST MOMENT"
MAIL ON SUNDAY

★★★★★ ANDREW PULVER, THE GUARDIAN

★★★★★ EMPIRE

★★★★★ DAVE CALHOUN, TIME OUT

★★★★★ DAILY EXPRESS

★★★★★ INDEPENDENT

★★★★★ METRO

★★★★★ TOTAL FILM

★★★★★ FINANCIAL TIMES

★★★★★ THE SUN

★★★★★ DAILY MAIL

★★★★★ DAILY MIRROR

★★★★★ DAILY STAR

★★★★★ GT

★★★★★ HEAT

★★★★★ HELLO!

★★★★★ NOW

★★★★★ OK!

★★★★★ CITY AM

HACKSAW
BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY
RIDGE



WHEN THE ORDER CAME TO RETREAT. ONE MAN STAYED.

IN CINEMAS NOW

LIONSGATE in cinemas